

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/016,866

Examiner

Michael J. Moore, Jr.

Applicant(s)

O'RIORDAN, PETER J.

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 11/10/2006.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-39.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

5. Notice of Informal Patent Application

2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment

4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mary R. Olynick (Reg. No. 42,963) on 1/19/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, on line 13, replace the word "interface" with --interfaces--.

In claim 29, on line 7, replace the word "product" with --medium--.

In claim 30, on line 2, replace the word "product" with --medium--.

In claim 31, on line 2, replace the word "product" with --medium--.

In claim 32, on line 3, replace the word "enable" with --enabling--.

In claim 32, on line 7, replace the word "enable" with --enabling--.

In claim 33, on line 3, replace "an or state" with --an up or down state--.

In claim 33, on line 5, replace the word "product" with --medium--.

In claim 34, on line 2, replace the word "product" with --medium--.

In claim 35, on line 2, replace the word "product" with --medium--.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/10/06 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-39 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, *Mikkonen* (U.S. 6,885,633) teaches nodes 100a and 100b (first and second routers) of Figure 1 containing active physical network interfaces as well as inactive physical network interfaces (110a-110h) that are configured to communicate with networks 10 and 20 as spoken of on column 3, lines 1-29.

Mikkonen also teaches the corresponding physical interfaces 110 shown in Figure 1 that have same IP and MAC addresses (ex. 110a and 110e, 110b and 110g, etc.).

Mikkonen as well as the other prior art of record fail to teach a first router having a plurality of first virtual interfaces, and a second router having a plurality of second virtual interfaces, the virtual interfaces configurable to correspond selectively to one or more physical ports of the network system, where the first virtual interfaces and second virtual interfaces are configurable to correspond to a different set of one or more physical ports for different time periods.

Regarding claims 2-15 and 39, these claims are further limiting to claim 1 and are thus also allowable over the prior art of record.

Regarding claims 16-38, these claims are allowable for the reasons indicated in the previous Office Action.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Fukushima et al. (U.S. 6,049,524), Gangadharan (U.S. 6,928,478), and Gadir et al. (U.S. 6,944,785) are other references considered pertinent to this application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Moore, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3168. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30am - 4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema S. Rao can be reached at (571) 272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael J. Moore, Jr.
Examiner
Art Unit 2616

mjm MM

Seema S. Rao
11/22/07

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